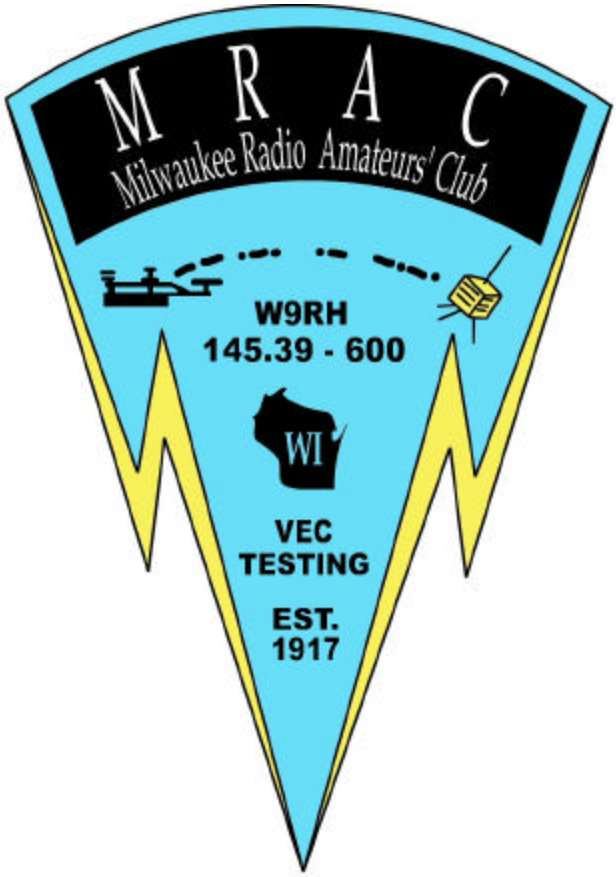
The History Of
The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Inc.
"MRAC"

Version 3
1917-2005



The History Of The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Inc.
Contents

Introduction 2
Credits: 3
The Timeline 4
The Beginning as Told By Someone Who Was There 22
From Dollars To Doughnuts 25
The MacArthur Parade 26
The W9RH Repeater 27
The Past Presidents Of MRAC 34
The Past Officers Of MRAC 35

Introduction

For a group in existence as long as the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, no effort was made to compile a history of the group until 2000. I mentioned at a board meeting that we should undertake a project to create a written club history. Jim Tromblay, WB9LNU, the club Secretary, Custodian, Historian, A/V Tech, etc offered to see what he could come up with. As Custodian, he had most of the club historical records. A couple of months later Jim handed me his take on the club history written in an outline form, year-by-year. As is the case when sifting through 80+ years of documents, there were a number of gaps in the time-line. Some of those gaps were filled with some general world news headlines. Those headlines also serve to add to the ambiance of the MRAC story.

I dug through some pictures (while working on the club photo album/scrapbook, and added them to Jim's text to create an 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 booklet which we had printed and handed out to all members. I also created the "normal" size 8-1/2 x 11 document which was published on the club World Wide Web site.

Shortly after publication, Hans Schroeder, AE9G, asked if I would mind a critique of the document (after all, Hans was a recently retired college professor). I said sure, go ahead, and at the next club meeting Hans handed me a marked up document with corrections in punctuation, grammar, and some other comments. I put this in the pile for future work and in 2003, incorporated Hans' comments, added info for the years 2000-2003, filled in a few other bits and pieces and published version 1A of the club history on the club Web site (we did not offer a printed version due to costs).

Since 2003 the history was updated to pick up information of the years 2003 on, and even add some additional history information. Also in 2003 and 2005 a number of documents were discovered that were written by club members over the years that covered some of the milestones of the club. Those documents are included in this version of the MRAC History in their entirety. I also added a written history of the club repeater before those details are forgotten. All those articles appear following the history timeline as originally developed by Jim. This project may become a full-length book yet!

Hopefully we can keep this a living document so future amateur radio operators can fully appreciate the long and illustrious story of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club.

For a number of years the club touted itself as the oldest continuously active amateur radio club in the world. In recent years we have uncovered information that disproves that fact. However, while a number of clubs actually started before MRAC. Only a handful remain and of those only about 3 or 4 have remained continuously active (generally they closed down during World War I and II – MRAC did not!). So MRAC is one of a very few of the worlds oldest continuously active amateur radio clubs. Interestingly, as one of the newly discovered documents show, MRAC was not the first club formed in the Milwaukee area. The Milwaukee Radio Association was formed previous to MRAC. That club died out during World War I and it's membership was absorbed into MRAC. But why not read the story for yourself.

So let's travel through the years and see the highlights of MRAC, amateur radio and some world news.

Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP President 19882-1983, 1998-2002, and temporary history guy

Credits:

Jim Tromblay WB9LNU – initial research and text
Dave DeFebo WB9BWP – initial formatting, additional text and subsequent revisions and the article, “The W9RH Repeater”
John Merkl WB9PSE – printing arrangements 2000
Hans Schroeder AE9G – proofreading 2000
Mark Tellier AB9CD – proofreading 2005, printing 2005
Loy S. Baird 9HO – “The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs’ Club” – the beginning
Unknown – “The MacArthur Parade”
Unknown – “From Dollars To Doughnuts” – the van story
The members of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs’ Club Inc since 1917 who helped create all this history…

The Timeline

1912

- Congress passes the Radio Act of 1912, licensing amateur radio operators and restricting them to wavelengths shorter than 200 meters (frequencies greater than 1500 KHz). This was in part to prevent them (us) from interfering with government radio stations.
- The Titanic hits an iceberg and sinks.

1914

- The American Radio Relay League was formed by Hiram Percy Maxim 1AW.
- War breaks out in Europe.

1917

- January—The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club was formed by Loy Schell Hillegas-Baird 9HO, A. C. Kletzsch Jr., J. B. Hitz, and Alonzo Pawling. The first meetings were held at the Trustee's Room of the Milwaukee Public Museum.
- The U.S. declared war on Germany.
- Radio Amateurs are ordered off the air due to the war.
- Congress passed the Espionage Act, providing a $10,000 fine and 20 years in prison for anyone who encouraged disloyalty or interfered with the draft.
- U.S. purchases the Virgin Islands from Denmark.

1918

- March 13 was the start of daylight savings time.
- October—the Influenza Epidemic strikes 1/4th of all U.S. citizens. War assembly plants were shut down and panic spread from coast to coast.

1919

- MRAC became affiliated with the ARRL (December 5).
- Ban on amateur radio because of World War I was lifted.
- Hiram Percy Maxim, founder of the ARRL, made the first major push to affiliate radio clubs across the country.
- Ratification of the 18th amendment to the constitution on prohibition, outlawing liquor, created turmoil.

1920

- Tucson, Arizona inaugurates the first municipal airport in the country.

1921

- First ARRL National Convention is held in Chicago.
- Professor Albert Einstein introduced "Time" as the fourth dimension to his theory of relativity.

1922

- MRAC starts its first code and radio building classes. Elementary electricity and radio was taught.
- MRAC members are using spark transmitters.
- The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated in Washington D.C.
- Daily broadcasting of music and news was scheduled in New York City. Crystal headphone receiving sets were selling rapidly.

1923

- March 10 – MRAC is incorporated in Milwaukee County
- Department of Justice officials asked all amateurs to voluntarily change from spark to CW transmissions. (The Dept. of Justice had charge of radio before the creation of the FCC).
- Time magazine was founded.
- The first Schick electric shaver was sold.

1924

- The Milwaukee Journal started a column in their newspaper called "HamChatter".
- Amateurs using phone transmissions were warned to stop or they would loose their license, only CW was legal.
- MRAC has CW classes and radio theory once a week.
- The " W " prefix was added to all amateur calls, both new and existing.

1925

- MRAC starts its own newsletter called the Badger ARRL News.

1926

- MRAC has members in all 48 states due to the popularity of the " Badger ARRL Newsletter." The newsletter contained diagrams on crystal oscillators and other up to date radio circuits that could be built.
- General Billy Mitchell begins to establish a modern military air power.
- Henry Ford starts offering his cars in other colors besides black. He also introduces the 8-hour work day and 5 day work week to the auto industry.
- NBC organizes the first nationwide radio broadcast network.

1927

- MRAC organizes two baseball teams, the "Key-Klickers" and “Brass Pounders".
- President Coolidge appoints five people to a new Federal Radio Control Commission.
- The first iron lung is used.
- Charles A. Lindbergh reaches Paris in 33 hours and 29 minutes.
- The first talking motion picture is produced and TV's first successful transmission is made.

1928

- MRAC installs a club station at the Coast Guard Station at McKinley Beach.
- MRAC also sponsors the first ARRL Central Division Convention at the Milwaukee Republican Hotel, May 25 through 27.
- The Radio Commission starts testing for "Amateur First Grade" licenses.
- Commander Byrd Expedition is in progress to the South Pole. Byrd had amateur radio equipment along.
- Walt Disney releases the first Mickey Mouse cartoon called "Plane Crazy" and also the first cartoon with sound.

1929

- MRAC buys code practice equipment to teach large classes.
- Al Capone's infamous St. Valentines Day Massacre takes place.
- The U.S. Stock Market crashes.

1930

- MRAC continues with annual picnics and code & theory classes.
- ARRL starts the contest Field Day. MRAC participates in the very first.
- ARRL Official Observer Stations were established to watch for Hams operating outside the bands.
- The Chicago Northwestern Railway asked for a list of club members who could be called if they had an emergency. Seven MRAC members volunteered.
- Albert Einstein arrives in the U.S. from Germany.
- The existence of the planetary body Pluto is confirmed.

1931

- MRAC members start building 5 meter equipment, 56 Mc (i.e.: 56 MHz).
- The Milwaukee Journal ends "HamChatter" in the newspaper. However, they granted us time to broadcast information over WTMJ radio.
- Herbert Hoover signed an Act making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem.
- Thomas Edison dies.

1932

- MRAC begins using motion pictures for training and entertainment at meetings.
- The Polaroid camera is invented.
- Franklin Roosevelt is elected president, he pledged the "New Deal" for all Americans.

1933

- Many members attend the "Chicago World's Fair" for radio demonstrations.
- The U. S. Government offered training programs in radio and other fields in an effort to get people to sign up for the "Army or Navy Volunteer Reserve".
- Prohibition is repealed.
- Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.

1934

- Unions in the U.S. gain great power.

1935

- MRAC's founder gets tuberculosis and is confined to a sanatorium.
- Bootleg 5 meter stations become a problem.
- Congress enacts Social Security.

1936

- FDR is elected for a second term.
- The Olympics are held in Germany. Hitler expected the games to be a show place to prove the superiority of the Nazi system.
- The Olympics featured the first television broadcast.

1937

- Howard Hughes established a transcontinental flight record.
- The Golden Gate Bridge is dedicated in San Francisco.
- Amelia Earhart makes her last flight.

1938

- Nazi Germany takes over Czechoslovakia.
- Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" is the top money making movie of the year.

1939

- MRAC sets up a booth at the Wisconsin Hobby Exposition at the Auditorium.
- The club also starts having a raffle to raise money.
- FDR is the first President on TV over the NBC experimental channel.
- Scientist split the atom.
- Germany invades Poland.

1940

- MRAC sponsors the ARRL Wisconsin Convention at the Schroeder Hotel.
- Dr. Vladimir K. Zworykin demonstrates the first electron microscope.
- Woman's first Nylon stockings go on sale.
- U.S. cipher experts use a technique they called "Magic" to break the Japanese secret diplomatic code.
- FDR is elected for his third term.
- The first helicopters are flying.

1941

- The ARRL is flooded with requests from the government for technical men needed on National Defense projects. Special registration blanks were included in the December QST. The government was looking for specialist with radio experience to replace civilian workers that have been called into the service or to a defense post.
- December 7—the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.
- December 8—MRAC worked with the Mayors office to set up a state-wide and local defense program.
- The Red Cross suggested that club members form a group to take First Aid instructions A.S.A.P.
- Rubber tires are the first items to be rationed.

1942

- MRAC members start the War Emergency Radio Service in Milwaukee. Stations required a special license to operate on 2 1/2 meters with a maximum input power of 25 watts.
- Jan. 15—All amateurs go off the air. (The military has sole use of the amateur frequencies).
- February 5 - Signal Corps is looking for radio operators.
- March 15—Marine Corps offered a qualified radio man a rank of Staff Sergeant and $72 per month to join up and help.
- April—Raytheon tube company is recruiting radio men for training on microwave radio defense systems. (Radar).
- Col. Doolittle's Raiders bomb Tokyo.
- Gasoline rationing goes into effect.
- U.S. wins at Midway.

1943

- MRAC buys 5 Series F war bonds.
- Club meetings were held every Thursday at the Public Library. Many times only 6 or 8 attended, but it kept the club active.
- MRAC's Erwin Kreis W9HRM, Tommy Gettelman W9IZO, and Charlie Meyer W9GVL create and send out monthly news letters to our members in the service to let them know what is going on at home.
- A new form of mold on cantaloupe is discovered that yields 10 times the amount of penicillin as previous sources.
- Roosevelt and Churchill decide that "Unconditional Surrender" will be demanded from all enemies.
- The IRS created the W-2 form for tax withholding.
- Incendiary bombing starts a new phenomenon, the "Intense Fire Storm" warfare is born.
- The 100th year anniversary of the first practical electric telegraph. A commemorative postage stamp was issued for the occasion.
- The 75th anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad line.
- The 125th anniversary of the first ship to cross the Atlantic under steam power.
- Paperback books are introduced.
- Hitler starts using the Buzz Bomb (Over 9000 were used).
- The V-2 rocket began use. The first V-2 went out of control and landed in Sweden. Its remains were quickly recovered and sent to the British.

1945

- Japan starts using Kamikaze pilots.
- Hitler commits suicide.
- The atomic bomb is dropped on Japan, the war is over.
- MRAC members terminate their efforts with the War Emergency Radio Service and take their antennas down.
- Amateurs can go back on the air.
- Amateur license terms are extended from 3 to 5 years.
- The Federal Government drops control over the sale of radio tubes.
- The new FM broadcast system is relocated to 88 through 106 MHz.

1946

- Erwin Kreis W9HRM passed away. Next year MRAC will apply for a club license with his call.
- Calculation by computer begins. The ENIAC computer had over 18,000 tubes.
- The first bank drive up window is used.

1947

- MRAC applies for its first club call. W9HRM, from deceased member Erwin Kreis.
- The first tubeless tires are introduced.
- Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.

1948

- MRAC sponsors the ARRL National Convention at the Milwaukee Auditorium (September 4-6).
- MRAC gets its first demonstration of SSB from W2KUJ of General Electric.
- MRAC meets weekly (Thursdays) in the Conference Room of the Milwaukee Public Museum (except the months of June, July and August).
- Commander Fred Catel, W9DTK, a club member, arranges a tour of the USS Tautog submarine docked at the Broadway bridge downtown.
- Religion is abolished in public school classrooms.
- The first solar heating system is installed.
- The first 33 RPM records come out.
- The Berlin Airlift starts.

1949

- MRAC's Jack Doyle W9GPI begins a two year term as ARRL Central Division Director
- U.S. born "Tokyo Rose" gets 10 year sentence for treason.
- The first woman's bikini is sold.

1950

- The Korean war starts. China sends 850,000 to help North Korea resist our Police Action.

1951

- MRAC adds the office of Second Vice-President. 1st V.P. was Travis Baird W9VQD and the 2nd V.P. was Ken Eggert W9MOT.
- FCC creates the Novice, Technician and Extra class licenses to join the Advanced (formerly class A), General (formally Class B) and Conditional (formerly class C) licenses.
- Over 3 million Koreans are dead in one year.
- The "King and I" becomes a Broadway smash.
- The 22nd amendment is added to the Constitution - No person can be a U.S. President for more than two terms.

1952

- MRAC has 250 members.
- MRAC provided communications for the car race at Elkhart Lake. Twenty-five members stationed in their cars strategically parked around the 7-1/2 mile race course funneled their observations of the race's progress to the central control.
- MRAC ladies auxiliary is started.
- MRAC gets an International Harvester truck for portable radio communications. The truck was distinctively marked with the clubs call, W9HRM (at the time). The truck had a matching trailer with a 2.5 KW generator.
- December—FCC stopped issuing new Advanced class licenses and took away Advanced and Extra privileges.
- The first UHF TV station goes on the air.
- Denver TV station is the first to go on the air with more than 5KW of power.

1953

- MRAC starts an achievement award program for making contacts.
- January—The first moonbounce signals heard.

1955

- MRAC establishes TVI technical staff to help all Milwaukee amateurs that are having TVI problems.

1956

- U.S. starts the Interstate Highway System.

1957

- MRAC's very own Jack Doyle W9GPI begins another term as ARRL Central Division Director (having previously served from 1949-1951). He will serve 2 more terms until 1963.
- Russia launches the first satellite called Sputnik.

1958

- 27 MHz taken away from hams and the Citizens Radio Service created.

1959

- Amateur Electronic Supply starts demo's of new equipment at MRAC meetings.
- Members go on a field trip to the Hallicrafters plant.
- U.S. hams get an additional 50 KHz at top end of 20 meters.
- Alaska becomes the 49th state.
- Hawaii becomes the 50th state.
- Castro takes over Cuba as dictator.
- America's first 7 astronauts are selected.

1960

- MRAC still runs Civil Defense Emergency drills.
- July—The first moonbounce 2 way contact takes place.
- The U.S. signs a treaty with Japan to defend them against future attacks. U.S. builds first bases in Japan.
- President Kennedy commits the U.S. to putting a man on the moon.
- U2 spy plane is shot down over Russia.
- U.S. launches 1st reconnaissance satellite.
- FDA approves the 1st contraceptive pills, $10 for one month supply.
- The U.S. atomic sub "Triton" circumnavigates the globe in 84 days, 30,708 miles.

1961

- December 12 - OSCAR 1, the first amateur radio satellite and the first non-government sponsored satellite is launched.
- 60th anniversary of Marconi's first transatlantic wireless communication between England and Newfoundland.
- President Kennedy creates the "Peace Corps".
- Russia puts the first man into space.
- Congress passes a bill making it a Federal crime to hijack an airplane or ship.
- The Berlin wall is built.
- The 1st U.S. military companies arrive in South Vietnam.

1962

- January 5 - Emil Felber W9RH takes over as trustee of the club license (W9HRM) from Tom Gettleman W9IZO.
- John Glenn makes his famous orbits around the earth in Friendship 7. The event was televised on TV and watched by 135 million Americans.
- June—OSCAR 2, the second amateur radio satellite is launched.
- The first privately owned satellite "Telstar" relays TV programs.
- U.S. blockades Russian ships delivering missiles from reaching Cuba. The U.S. threatens to invade Cuba not knowing that the Russians already had 12 small nuclear missiles in Cuba. The Russians fortunately back down.

1963

- The first Russian woman orbits the earth.
- Race riots are becoming common in the U.S.
- 115 countries sign a World Treaty banning nuclear test in the atmosphere, except France and China.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. starts his civil rights marches in Washington.
- President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1964

- U.S. Post Office releases Ham Radio stamp on the 50th anniversary of the ARRL..
- China explodes their first atomic bomb.

1965

- U.S. bombs North Vietnam as the first troops land in DaNang.
- The first cigarette packages to have health warnings on them are produced.
- National attention to ban the use of the LSD drug.
- Ralph Nader, a young lawyer, fights for safety regulations on all cars.
- The Treasury Dept. reports the Vietnam war is costing America $1,200,000,000.00 per month.

1967

- MRAC sponsors its second Central Division ARRL Convention. The West Allis and Menomonee Falls clubs join with us to help at the convention.
- "Hippie" and "Flower Children" movement starts.
- There are race riots in 127 cities across the country, including Milwaukee. The National Guard is called out.
- “Incentive Licensing” takes effect, returning Advanced class license and taking privileges away from Generals, effectively stopping growth of Amateur Radio.

1968

- The Green Bay Packers win the 1st Super Bowl.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.
- President Johnson orders a complete halt to the bombing of North Vietnam.

1969

- MRAC changes club call to W9RH call formally held by Emil Felber.
- Astronaut Neil Armstrong is first human to set foot on the moon.

1970

- MRAC's youngest member at this time was Dave DeFebo WN9BWP, he would later become club President (twice).
- Many club members participated in a open house program where they invited members of the club to come see their Ham Shacks.
- The US has nationwide protests for the end of the Vietnam War.

1971

- MRAC assists in providing communications at the Schlitz Circus Parade on the 4th of July.
- National Radio Co. files for Chapter 11 and ceased to manufacture radio equipment. Their HRO receivers were Ham Radio favorites.
- 18 year olds get the right to vote.
- President Nixon has audio recording equipment installed in the White House.

1972

- Allied Radio exits the mail order business.
- President Nixon makes first China visit by a modern day president.
- While campaigning for President, Alabama Governor George Wallace is shot and paralyzed from the waist down.

1973

- The Vietnam war ends.
- The Watergate scandal starts.

1974

- MRAC Ham Chatter starts a regular monthly schedule instead of a random schedule.
- Arab oil embargo happens. Long lines and waits for gas as big oil corporations limited supply to raise prices. OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) limited supplies and forced the price of oil to increase greatly as the value of the dollar was diminishing. The government starts printing gas-rationing coupons in case the gas shortages get out of hand.
- Nixon is ordered to release 64 tapes in the Watergate investigation.
- President Nixon reveals cover-up and later resigns from office.
- New President Ford pardons Nixon of all crimes.
- The U.S. movie rating system starts.

1975

- Unemployment in the U.S. reaches 6.5 million.

1976

- MRAC offers code and theory classes at Wauwatosa East High School, to boost membership. Classes are taught by Dick Oberholzer W9ZPV, Walt Glish W9YYW and Dave DeFebo WB9BWP. The classes run at least one session per year for 9 to 12 weeks. Some years there will be two or three 9 to12 week sessions.

1977

- MRAC begins having meetings at Wauwatosa Savings and Loan (having moved from the Milwaukee School Of Engineering).

1978

- MRAC membership reaches 195.
- The MRAC charged $5.00 for classes and gave free membership for the balance of the year.

1979

- MRAC has 198 members.
- MRAC along with Milwaukee ARES stage an amateur radio show at Mayfair Mall covering an entire weekend.
- MRAC adds a dinner to the annual Old Timers' Nite/ Christmas Party to celebrate 60 years of affiliation with ARRL. ARRL Vice-President Dick Baldwin attends.
- Hams are given privileges on 10 MHz, 18 MHz, and 24 MHz at the World Administrative Radio Conference.
- Three Mile Island nuclear accident. The core reached 5000 degrees before it was brought under control.

1980

- MRAC adds a General class license class to the Novice class the club has been running. Al Bellanger W9MDG is the first instructor.
- MRAC suffers through a brief political turmoil with the removal of a director from the board – Russ Burss W9RKP, (for the first time in club history?), the resignation of a President, alternative meetings, general turmoil. It was at least 6 months until things began to return to a "normal" state. Some members, including life members, never returned to the club, leaving in protest. This also marked the beginning of a period of contention between some members as to what the club should be doing and how to do it.
- Governor Lee Dreyfus signed documents proclaiming May 17th Amateur Radio Day in Wisconsin. This notice was displayed on a sign on City Hall. QST magazine has a picture of Milwaukee City Hall with Amateur Radio sign in the December issue.

1981

- MRAC has a booth at the International Science & Engineering Fair at MECCA.
- The Milwaukee City Hall photo of Amateur Radio Day (May 17) appears in a Norwegian Radio Relay League magazine. In Norway, May 17th is a national holiday similar to our 4th of July.
- The club is polled by the ARRL about a new code free license proposal.
- Channel 12 video tapes our Field Day site for the 5 and 10 o'clock news.
- The first space shuttle, named Columbia, goes into space.

1982

- MRAC adds an Advanced/Extra class license class to the Novice and Technician/General classes the club has been running.
- The FCC votes to retain the Morse code requirements for all grades of license.

1983

- MRAC acts as QSL manager for Space Shuttle flight ST-9.
- MRAC demonstrates 10 foot earth station satellite antenna to all Milwaukee area hams.
- MRAC begins to administer amateur tests working with a Chicago VEC.
- FCC maintains code requirements, there are many requests to reconsider.
- W5LFL becomes the first amateur to transmit from space aboard the Space Shuttle.

1984

- MRAC goes into full operation as an independent Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC).
- FCC creates PRB-1 rule issuing a federal pre-emption over local tower laws.

1986

- MRAC is QSL manager for Tony, W0ORE, on Space Shuttle Mission STS51-F.
- MRAC field day group makes over 1000 contacts.
- MRAC has a special event station at Polish Fest.
- The membership votes to have the club picnic on the same day with Field Day.
- Packet radio takes off.
- The Space Shuttle Challenger explodes on liftoff killing all aboard.

1987

- MRAC provides communications for the Tri-County YMCA Races.
- MRAC sends $200 to the Clements Michigan Leance-Cruze Amateur Radio Club to help fight a lawsuit to defeat a ban on amateur radio antennas.
- Russian nuclear power plant disaster at Chernobyl.

1988

- MRAC call W9RH is used for a 10 meter net on 28.4 MHz.

1989

- Ten-Ten International held its second Biennial International Convention in Milwaukee.

1990

- MRAC starts purchasing Field Day radio equipment and antennas (including a Kenwood TS-430 from the estate of George Philbert KA9MXM)..
- MRAC officers move to 2 year terms.
- Hubble Space Telescope is launched. Focus doesn't work.
- Gulf War to rescue Kuwait from Iraq invasion, begins.

1991

- MRAC sets up amateur station at Discovery World at the Milwaukee Museum.
- MRAC holds last Field Day at the old Nike Missile site in Lannon.
- MRAC members provide communications at the Channel 10/36 wine tasting event at Mayfair Mall.
- Jim Harrington donates a Heathkit SB-104 transceiver to MRAC for Field Day use.
- MRAC License classes move to Marquette Electronics R&D Center after Wauwatosa recreation department (operators of Wauwatosa East High School after normal school hours) raised rent paid by the club for using Wauwatosa East High School.
- FCC creates a new Technician license without a Morse code requirement.

1992

- October—MRAC gets a repeater. The frequency is 147.045. It is temporarily located at Ed Wille's house
- MRAC Field Day takes place at Indian Mounds Boy Scout Camp.
- MRAC sells personalized coffee mugs in an effort to raise money for the recent repeater purchase (to repay Ed Wille).

1993

- MRAC classes for all grades of amateur license and VE testing move to Village At Manor Park thanks to Phil Lehman, KB9FOQ.
- MRAC has first Field Day at the Railroad Museum at Pioneer Village in Cedarburg thanks to Fred Linn, W9NZF.

1994

- MRAC dues raised to $15 in part due to newsletter publishing costs.
- Amateur Electronic Supply has its first "Superfest" with MRAC having a club table and conducting license exams.

1995

- Position of MRAC board Chairman (which was a non-voting position filled by the immediate past-President) is eliminated and new By-Laws are written.

1996

- MRAC establishes weekly Friday night net on 2 meters joining the existing 10 meter net.
- MRAC has last meeting at Wauwatosa Savings Bank (due to bank remodeling eliminating the meeting room).
- MRAC continues as VEC with Ed Wille W9PWG taking over from Jack Krause W9JK who ran it for 12 years.
- MRAC holds last license class of current 20 year run at Village At Manor Park.

1997

- MRAC has new meeting location at Redemption Lutheran Church.

1998

- Ed Wille W9PWG completes a record 9+ years as club president (after taking over from Harry Cieszki who moved to Florida).
- President Bill Clinton becomes the first President to be impeached since Andrew Johnson (marks only the third time in US history a President has been impeached).

1999

- January – Ed Wille W9PWG, has his fourth heart attack and passes away at his desk. It took two entire board meetings and one entire club meeting to discuss all the things Ed did/had done for the club and to make plans for someone to take over those functions.
- John Kraak KF9XL and Tom Fuszard KF9PU take over VEC duties after the death of Ed Wille W9PWG.
- March meeting features Bart Jahnke W9JJ a Wisconsin native who works for the ARRL.
- MRAC adds an email address for communicating with the board.
- The FCC makes major changes to amateur rules, cutting license classes from six down to three with a single 5 wpm code test for the two highest classes (Novice and Advanced classes are eliminated).

2000

- MRAC first written history compiled by Jim Tromblay, WB9LNU.
- MRAC again offers license classes, now at Amateur Electronic Supply.
- MRAC creates its own World Wide Web site. Actually the club took over a site created but not updated by a former member.
- MRAC VEC processes over 300 people in the first 4 months of the year in anticipation of license changes on April 15.
- MRAC Repeater is relocated atop the Eaton Corporation building at 27th and Hope Streets (near Capitol Dr).
- The MRAC club auction is revived after a numbers of years of absence.
- April 15—Code speed for General and Extra license reduced to 5 wpm. No new Novice or Advanced class licenses will be issued.
- November—The largest and most expensive amateur satellite (Phase 3D or AMSAT-OSCAR 40) is launched (with some problems).
- The first ham activity from the International Space Station takes place.
- Due to a close election and some possible voting irregularities, it took 37 days after the Presidential election to formally declare a new President of the US.

2001

- Dick McNew WB9PTC moves his on-air code practice from 2M simplex to the MRAC repeater.
- MRAC Newsletter, *"Hamateur Chatter"* goes to a 6 week circulation to keep costs down.
- Tom Czaja KG9EE and Mark Tellier AB9CD step up to be "assistant VEC managers" backing up John Kraak KF9XL and Tom Fuszard KF9PU.
- MRAC field day features a telescope for actual viewing of sunspots, live.
- MRAC Field Day features first ever satellite contact (by Brian White K9LCQ).
- MRAC raffles donated 10M radio and antenna with winner selected at the Christmas Party - winner was Ted Stiller WA9RDI - raffle brought in $170.
- MRAC finishes year operating in the black for the first time in years (as a result of some strong belt-tightening and begging for donations the last few years).
- MRAC eliminates the positions of 2nd Vice President and one Director due to continuing difficulty to get people to run for office.
- The first "space tourist" goes into space for a stay aboard the International Space Station (after paying Russia 20 million dollars).
- September 11 - Middle Eastern terrorists hijack 4 airplanes and crash two into the World Trade Center towers in New York City and one into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. The fourth plane crashes in a field in Pennsylvania. Both World Trade Center towers collapse within hours. Only military air traffic is allowed for 3 days.
- The US invades Afghanistan, the center of much of the world's terrorist activity and home to the organization responsible for the September 11th attacks on the US.

2002

- MRAC Newsletter, *"Hamateur Chatter"* goes to a bi-monthly circulation to keep costs down.
- MRAC celebrates its 85th birthday with a special event station resulting in over 500 contacts being made world-wide.
- MRAC Repeater receives a new Decibel Products commercial antenna (April) and new GE commercial receiver/transmitter hardware (July) and changes frequency to 145.39 MHz (swapping frequencies with the MATC repeater).
- MRAC license classes start from a second, alternate location - Brown Deer United Methodist Church.
- MRAC Field Day features not one but two telescopes (beating last year) as well as the first ever movie showing (Frequency) during evening break.
- The first J. Travis Baird award is presented to Dick McNew WB9PTC in recognition of his never-ending elmering of prospective and new hams in learning amateur radio and especially Morse code.
- On-air code practice on the club repeater taken over by D.J. KC9AYO, after many years by Dick McNew WB9PTC having run the on-the-air practice.
- The Central States VHF Society holds its 36th annual convention in Milwaukee. This is the first convention held in the upper Midwest since 1989 and first held in Wisconsin.

2003

- MRAC raises dues to $17 per year in order to bring the newsletter back to a monthly circulation.
- MRAC sponsors its first VHF/UHF FM Sprint contest. MRAC is the winner in the club category.
- MRAC club history is updated.
- MRAC Repeater moves to another new location sharing space with receivers for other local repeaters and a Navy MARS repeater on the channel 18/10/36 TV tower (receive antenna at 750 feet, transmit antenna at 650 feet). MRAC provides an antenna and cavities for the community repeater project. Thanks to MATC/Channel 10/36 for the space, Skywave Tower Service for antenna work and Dave Karr, KA9FUR, WAR Frequency Coordinator and Dave Schank, KA9WXN, Engineer Channel 10/36 for their technical work getting things running.
- Tom Fuszard, KF9PU, one of the MRAC-VEC managers, is elected to the position of Chairman – National Council of VECs (NCVEC) at their annual meeting in Gettysburg, Pa. (7/03)
- MRAC offers for sale (donation) the first CD-ROMs of a club photo album / scrapbook. Only about 12 copies were sold.
- MRAC President Patrick Moretti W9UQ resigns due to health reasons which prompts a shuffling of officers with Kevin Reemes KC9BZU taking over the job of President only to have his job put him on the road traveling worldwide resulting in him missing most meetings until his term expires. During all this, the first signs of personality conflict in the club in 20 years appear.
- The space shuttle Columbia breaks apart during re-entry over the southern US killing all aboard including 3 hams. This is the first time there has ever been a loss during a landing.
- The US invades Iraq.

2004

- MRAC sponsors its second VHF/UHF sprint contest again winning the club category.
- For the first time MRAC elects officers but no one runs for President. Eventually Patrick Moretti, W9UQ returns after an earlier resignation.
- Tom Fuszard KF9PU is re-elected Chairman – National Council OF VECs (NCVEC) at their annual meeting in Gettysburg, Pa.
- The Ozaukee County Historical Society allows MRAC to install cabinets and shelving in the basement of the train depot at Pioneer Village (which MRAC has been using as its Field Day site) to store club radio equipment and antennas – primarily for Field Day use.
- George H.W. Bush wins re-election to a second term as President of the United States in a bitterly contested election (following the election debacle of 2000).

2005

- Robert Felber, the son of the late Emil Felber, W9RH (the original), donates 2 boxes full of club and amateur radio memorabilia as collected by his late father. The collection includes a 1954 Wisconsin automobile license plate for W9RH.
- MRAC sponsors its third VHF/UHF sprint contest and did not win the club category (Badger Contesters did)..
- After a hiatus of a couple of years, MRAC offers a Technician license class again.
- Dick McNew, WB9PTC, once again returns to conducting code practice on the repeater (Mondays and Fridays).

The Beginning as Told By Someone Who Was There

Editor's note: The following is a reprint (with exact spelling and grammar) from a copy (dated October 1956 by Emil Felber W9RH) of a document entitled *"The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club by L. S. Baird, Past President"*. Other copies of this document have also been found proving it is authentic. The exact date of publication is unknown.

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
By L.S. Baird, Past President

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club was founded in January 1917, by L. S. Baird, A. C. Kletzsch Jr., J. B. Hitz, and Alonzo Pawling. In its prewar existence it could have been characterized as the junior amateur radio organization of the city. This existence being one of but a few months, all the early members were drawn from but a limited section of the city.

Previous to the founding of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club two of the local high schools had organized radio clubs, and one or two other attempts were made to found local wireless clubs, but with one exception none endured long. This exception was the Milwaukee Radio Association, which at the time of the founding of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club constituted the senior radio association of Milwaukee. This association did not survive the war period of government ban on amateur radio activities. Its post-war membership was absorbed by the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. Among these members were Robert Miregler, C. F. Bates, L. J. Prahl, and L. A. Degner. The Milwaukee Boy Scout Radio Club was founded at about the same time, but existed for only a short period while its members were receiving instruction in elementary radio from a member of the faculty of the School Of Engineering. Some of its members joined the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club.

In the spring of 1919 and shortly after the government ban on amateur radio activities was removed, a meeting of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club was held and plans were made for the coming club season of 1919-1920. A careful survey of the city was made and a list of all amateurs was compiled. This list was the nucleus of the complete record of all amateurs in the city that the club now keeps. The Trustees' Room of the Milwaukee Public Museum, which has a seating capacity of about one hundred, was secured as a hall for the Club to convene in.

At the first meetings in the fall of 1919 a new constitution was adopted and officers elected and installed. The officers were L. S. Baird, President; C. N. Crapo, Vice President; R. A. Teschan, Secretary; T. V. Weston, Treasurer; and R. A. Pelishek, Business Manager. Others prominent in the direction were: C. S. Polacheck, C. M. Prinslow, A. C. Kletzsch, Jr., and A. B. Lord.

The club became affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, Inc. and L. A. Degner, a member, was appointed City Manager. Many other events, both business and social, took place this year.

The club opened the season of 1920-1921 with L. S. Baird, Chairman of the Board of Directors; C. N. Crapo, President; A. B. Lord Vice President; Louis Heyman, Secretary; and E. W. Ruppenthal, Treasurer and Business Manager. Mr. Crapo succeeded Mr. Degner as City Manager for the American Radio Relay League, Inc. Meetings were held this season in a lecture room in the Old Insurance Bldg. obtained thru the courtesy of the School of Engineering of Milwaukee. The Milwaukee membership of the now defunct Wisconsin Radio

League, which had been founded by M. B. Grogan and R. F. Laidlaw, was absorbed by the club. Mr. Grogan became the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club publicity manager. Before the organization of the Milwaukee Radio Executive Council, the Club became affiliated with the Chicago Executive Council (Radio). The "Chicago Plan" for control of radio traffic was adopted and enforced first by the Club and then by the Milwaukee Council. It was thru the efforts of the leaders of the Club that the Milwaukee Radio Executive Council was formed. This Club and several others are represented in the Council. The season was closed by a successful social and dance held in the dining room of the St. James Episcopal Church.

The season of 1921-1922 was opened with the following officers: L. S. Baird, Past President; C. N. Crapo, Chairman of the Board of Directors; D. J. Gellerupt President; H. F. Wareing, Vice President; L. W. Klingbiel, Secretary; and E. W. Ruppenthal, Treasurer and Business Manager.

The club meets weekly at 8:00 P.M. on Monday evenings, except the third Monday of each month, in the Trustee's Room of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Visitors and prospective members are welcome at all meetings. At meetings when outside speakers are not present, members present papers and informal discussions take place. Previous to the hour of opening the meeting, half an hour is devoted to code practice for those who desire it. Members are encouraged to present before meetings both radio traffic and technical problems. It is the hope of the direction of the club that in the near future a plan will be inaugurated whereby a certain period of the meetings will be devoted to giving instruction in elementary electricity and radio communication.

This year the club has embarked on an extensive lecture program. An attempt has been made to secure from the ranks of employees of Milwaukee's electrical industries a number of men who could lecture on some subject that has points in common with radio communication. Some of the lectures that have been given and some that remain to be given are: December 8, 1921, "The National Electrical Code and Its Application to Radio Signaling Apparatus", by A. C. Schultz, Electrical Inspector, Wisconsin Inspection Bureau; January 23, 1922, "Serving the Radio Amateur" by W. S. Wilder, Sc. B., E. E., Electrical Testing Division, The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Co.; February 13, 1922, "The Theory of the Electron Tube" by R. C. Siegel, Sc. B., The University of Wisconsin, 1921; February 27, 1922, "Some Possibilities in the Development of Electron Discharge Apparatus" by Arthur Simon, member I.R.E., Electrical Engineer, Cutler-Hammer Mfg. Co., March 13, 1922, "Storage Batteries" by J. P. Schroeter, Electrical Engineer, formerly Consulting Engineer, American School of Correspondence, Chicago, Ill. All radio men and other interested persons are invited to attend.

The club has several committees thru which much of its work is accomplished. Membership in one or more of these committees entitles the radio amateur to become actively engaged in the solution of the problems of local radio organizations. There is a Committee on Interference and Relay which has for its duty to cooperate with the A.R.R.L. City Manager in the solving of problems of local radio traffic. Some other committees, the work of which is obvious from their names, are the Committee on Papers and Publications, Program Committee, Publicity Committee, and the Committee on Research and Development. The work of the last-named committee is shortly to be transferred to a radio laboratory founded by several radio club members.

Membership appeals alike to the "DX" man, the radio experimenter, the beginner, and to those who have only a set for the reception of radio broadcasts. There are three classes of membership viz: Member, Associate, and Junior. Dues for the first two classes are fifty cents a month and for Juniors, twenty-five cents. An initiation fee of one dollar is charged. The

Direction of the Club is especially desirous of having for members all local members of the A. R. R. L., making the Club a real local section of the League.

There are several other radio clubs in Milwaukee and its suburbs, three of which are affiliated with this club thru the Milwaukee Radio Executive Council. They are as follows: Wauwatosa Radio Club, meeting on Monday evenings in the Wauwatosa High School; West Allis Radio Club, meeting on Friday evenings in the West Allis Public Library; South Side Radio Club of Milwaukee, meeting on Wednesday evenings in the South Side Branch of the Public Library. Although the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club has a centrally located meeting hall and embraces a city-wide membership, its direction realizes the expediency of having additional radio clubs in the suburbs and various sections of the city. The Milwaukee metropolitan district is large enough and boasts a sufficient number of amateurs to make it a multi-club one. The Direction of this club does not view these contemporary clubs as competitors but as organizations striving with this Club to make Milwaukee's radio organization a success.

Milwaukee's radio traffic organization and traffic conditions will be discussed in another article under the heading of the Milwaukee Radio Executive Council.

The executive office to which all Club correspondence should be addressed is: 601 Enterprise Building, Second and Sycamore Streets, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

From Dollars To Doughnuts

This piece could be captioned in many ways - "Out of little acorns, big oaks grow," would be an apt description. Or perhaps, "There's no substitute for work." Wise men through the ages have said countless things and historians have preserved the best for posterity. But the guy who coined the phrase, "From Dollars to Doughnuts," hit it right on the button when he gave us those few words to tell the story of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club mobile radio truck, W9HRM.

The Dollars part of the story, goes back to Jack Doyle, W9GPI, when he started the ball rolling and then put his shoulders behind the A.R.R.L. national convention staged here a few years ago. The club realized a tidy sum from the three day affair. Being a non-profit organization it was necessary that the M.R.A.C. take steps to put the money earned to the best possible use as soon as possible. Not being a frivolous group, after the first big affair at the Milwaukee Athletic Club, leading members and the board of directors hit upon the idea of a mobile radio truck owned, fitted out and operated by the club, and its members.

The ball was set in motion again. Arrangements were made to purchase a new international ton-and-a-half truck with a Metro van type, body. Radio gear was procured at the best possible prices with the help of Radio Parts Co., Amphenol, Motorola, and others. The Forrer Equipment Co. donated the operating chairs, for example.

A first class job of installation was the next step as the $5000 "ball of-wax" took form. H. Charles Kaetel, W9SNK, a WISN engineer, and Gene Wille, W9EKU, a sound engineer, seized the, opportunity to be of service and took charge of putting the equipment in operating shape. They were ably assisted by Clarence Burke, W9KEU, who handled the mechanical installation, and W9IDW, W9GLA, and W9LCD. The Gettelman Brewery electricians put in the AC wiring.

In a little more than a year we have come from the Dollars to the Doughnuts.

A newcomer to the club lists, Bob Posanaki, no call yet but a ham through and through, handled the doughnuts. It came about at the A.R. R.L. Field Day, just concluded. Travis Baird, W9VQD, and his crew of operators wheeled the completed W9HRM onto the field day location the Robert J. Kieckhefer estate in Brookfield and friend Posanaki wheeled in the doughnuts. Some thirty members participated in the exercises, and they all came away raving about the terrific job of gratis baked refreshments that Baker Posanski kept rolling from his Beloit Road emporium to the Brookfield headquarters. . .

Baird and his outfit using the truck rigs as a nucleus rang up 411 contacts in the 24 hour period. Most of the QSO'S were made on 40 meters, with ten meters showing up badly due to the condition of the band. Truck equipment used were the Collins and Harvey-Wells transmitters and the HRO and NC 57 receivers with RME 152A preselector. All power was supplied from the trailer two-and-a-half KW generator.

Following is a list of members who participated: W9SNK, W9ANA, W9CUW, W9DGB, W9DR, W9EKU, W9FDX, W9GIL, W9GLA, W9MOT, W9GPI, W9GZR, W9HDW, W9IDW W9IRZ,. W9IZO, W9IZQ, W9KEG, W9LFK, W9NMA, W9LFP, W9LIC, W9LSK, W9SQL, W9UH, W9VLK, W9LIU, Baworth, Tom Herzog and Piechowski.

The truck carries two men in the front section and can seat four in the rear. It can be used in motion and carries two whip antennas as well as a collapsible antenna for use from a fixed location.

The MacArthur Parade

July 1951

Milwaukee mobile radio amateurs' added another laurel to their rapidly growing list of achievements during the mid-April visit of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to his home town. -

After it was determined that the hams could be of assistance in transmitting information on the progress of the MacArthur motorcade, as it entered Wisconsin from the south on Highway 42, two mobile units were officially assigned to the parade itself. Along with relay stations set rip en-route and the base station used to transmit bulletins to the agencies requesting pertinent information, the operation functioned with little Interference and a minimum of difficulty. Under the direction of Charley Kaetel, W9SNK, the mobile group arranged to furnish information to the "MacArthur Network", a group of local stations (WEMP, WFOX, WISN, WMAW, WMIL), the Journal Radio Stations, WOKY, and the Journal and Sentinel newsrooms In addition to the Milwaukee Police department.

Control was established at W9AYX, just off highway 41, on 3873 kc and 3950 kc, with W9IZO, W9GPI and W9WK operating the mobiles, and W9VQD and W9NEM trouble shooting along the route in other mobile cars. The staff at W9AYX Included W9IZH and W9VLK, in addition to W9SNK. All bulletins were relayed to the Shorewood emergency station, W9IH, and then telephoned downtown. The staff at W9IH included W9EBJ, W9AMB, W9DR and W9HWO. After the motorcade reached Milwaukee and started its whirlwind tour through the city during the afternoon the frequency shifted to ten meters and 29640 kc with W9EKU, W9MNI, W9MOT, W9UMX and W9RH participating as mobiles.

Jack Doyle, W9GPI, best describes the day's crowded activity in a story he has put down for posterity called, "The Daylight Ride of the Mobileers". Space in this issue does not permit a detailed account of 'the harrowing experiences Jack, Tommy Gettelman, Tommy Thomas and all the other faithfuls underwent. But his tale of the pushing, the shoving, and most of all the …but... let him tell it… "As we moved into position behind the Governor's Cadillac, the big number ONE on his license became our target. Our speedometer suddenly was up to 55-60-70-whee 75 miles per hour and our driver froze solidly into the alert position of a person driving down a steep mountain grade his right foot pushing on the accelerator and his left one poised above the brake pedal.

"Within what seemed like seconds we plunged into the outskirts of Kenosha and people were everywhere including the roadway. Then Racine, the Milwaukee County line, the city and. in less time than it takes to tell about it, we arrived at the Plankinton Hotel after the wildest drive of your reporter's career.

W9IOX and W9GIL attempted to get some snapshots and movies. We nearly lost two good hams in the mission. Gettelman needed a vacation to restore his shattered nerves, and Billy Sanger, our driver, wears an elastic bandage on his wrist after qualifying for the '500' race.

In the records the MacArthur motorcade can well go down in M.R.A.C. history as the 'Great Rat Race' and a revelation on amateur operations mobilewise at speeds and under conditions that NEVER again will be equaled. Nobody could get that nuts!"

The W9RH Repeater

Dave DeFebo WB9BWP (March, 2005)

This is a long article covering the complete history of the MRAC repeater. Many of these details have only been known to a select few parties. Usually that was due to some sensitive negotiations and arrangements with the people supplying the sites or even some of the equipment. Now is a good time for people to know the real story to clear up some of the misconceptions about all that has gone into the repeater construction. The story is long because it covers over 12 years and a number of people and a bunch of equipment. Other than Jim Tromblay WB9LNU, I am the only other person who has been at least somewhat involved with this project since the beginning, so before the facts slip away…

Starting around 1991, the board of directors started talking about constructing a repeater. After all, for a club with the heritage we had, we should have been one of the first in the area to have a repeater, but alas, we were asleep at the time. At first the discussion was on getting a 220 MHz repeater as Novice licenses had access to 220 and not 2M and officially there were no 2M frequencies available. There was not a lot of equipment available for 220 but we were looking into that possibility. Ed Willie W9PWG, the club President at the time even bought a 220 MHz hand held for himself to experiment with the band.

In 1992 Ed Willie found a ham in Germantown with a repeater for sale. Ed used $750 of his own money to buy the system (and then some). The money got a late sixties vintage Motorola commercial repeater consisting of a receiver, transmitter, power amplifier, 4 Tx/Rx cavities, an ACC repeater controller (vintage early 80's), Motorola rack cabinet, Hustler antenna as well as some non-functioning GE repeater parts and a smaller GE rack cabinet (the GE stuff was "free" but had to be taken with the Motorola repeater otherwise no deal). To everyone's confusion the sale also included the frequency of 147.045, which is the frequency the repeater was operating on at the time (from the ham's house in Germantown). I say confusion as repeater frequencies as coordinated by the Wisconsin Association Of Repeaters are not transferable. In fact, if an existing repeater relocates more than a certain distance it is subject to frequency change/re-coordination. No one seemed to be paying attention and by the time someone said something it was agreed to let us go ahead as our signal was so weak we would pose no threat to any existing repeater.

The reason we did not have much of a signal was that Ed brought all the stuff home and with the help of Jim Tromblay WB9LNU installed the repeater in his (Ed's) garage and the antenna on his 50 foot tower. This was in the area of 79th and Lisbon Ave. Ed told the club what he did (he was President at the time) and asked if it was OK. That may sound kind of foolish and irresponsible but the deal had a time limit and had to be done when it was. There was no time to contact the membership or the board in advance. There was certainly no time to have numerous discussions about the plan. Everyone said "Good job Ed" and then pretty much left things up to Ed to run.

Of course Ed put his own money into the repeater so the club had to pay him back. While we did have money in the treasury, it was decided to try some sort of fund raiser to see how much we could get. Orv Stewart, KA9ONQ, came up with the idea of a coffee mug. He knew a place that could screen on your name and call so we could take orders for and sell personalized mugs. Of course as is custom with the club when we try to have ID things made, the mugs are screened on the wrong side if you are holding the mug in your right hand (the lettering is then facing you). We recommended a $25 minimum donation and received a

number of $25, a few $50 and even a couple of $100 donations. We were able to pay back Ed Wille no problem. We had a working repeater.

The phrase working was relative. Over the next few years there was a lot of tinkering, a lot of money spent and while we did make progress it was very slight. More details later in the story.

OK, now we had a repeater, so what? In order to generate some activity, it was decided to add a 2 meter FM net to compliment the existing 10 meter net (which had been in operation since 1988). Since Ed Willie W9PWG had the idea and was going to be net control, the 2 meter net was scheduled to immediately follow the 10 meter net. At the time the 10 meter net was at 8:45 PM on Friday nights. Ed decided the 2 meter net would start at 9:15 PM or later depending on the activity on the 10 meter net. Of course many people were confused about a 9:15 start time so sometimes the net started early with someone else being net control or people would look for the net at 9:00, hear nothing and then go about their business and miss the net completely. Eventually, the 10 meter net was moved to 8:30 PM and the 2 meter net moved to 9:00 PM. Ed was very good at twisting arms. He would often call and prod people he knew well to get on the net. At other times the repeater saw very little use. Maybe it was just the club membership, but the fact that unless you lived within a couple of miles of the repeater you needed a good antenna and a fair amount of power to access it so it sort of made the point of a repeater kind of needless. In fact, when I would check into the Friday night nets I could usually hear almost everyone direct on the input frequency since they had to use good antennas and power. Ed was the only person who could really get in with a hand held, but that was because he was about 50 feet away from the tower.

There were some technical issues with the repeater also. It was installed in Ed's detached garage. That meant in winter the cabinet was very cold and in summer it was very hot. Electronics do not generally like very hot. To compound things Ed's garage was very packed with stuff for Ed's business (it was a 2 car garage with room for barely 1 car). As a result the cavities (large tuned filters to allow 1 antenna to be used with a receiver and transmitter operating simultaneously) had to be placed horizontally on top of the repeater cabinet. Cavities for 2 meters are 6 inch diameter cylinders about 3 feet tall. Inside the cylinder are a number of sensitive mechanical parts. Mounted horizontally, the workings of a cavity tend to droop causing the adjustments to be incorrect. Couple this with the temperature extremes which also affect the metal parts (expanding and contracting) and we had a devil of a time keeping the cavities in tune. In fact, Ed had so much trouble, he needed to send some of the cavities in to the manufacturer for factory adjustment.

All the problems with the cavities also lead to problems with the repeater transmitter desensing the receiver. Since the transmitter and receiver operate simultaneously, that was definitely a problem. In an effort to solve the problem we ended up buying another cavity (placing 3 on the receiver and 2 on the transmitter. Unfortunately after spending an additional $300 that did not seem to help.

Along the way the few tubes used in the transmitter and amplifier started showing their age and required replacement (even more money). So far this repeater thing is costing a lot of money and time, but it is something we need to have to prove we are not just a bunch of old guys (wait, we are!). By this time Ed was spending a good deal of time in his garage tweaking the repeater and then calling in Jim Tromblay WB9LNU (who worked with Ed) to help out.

We decided we should upgrade the repeater hardware. One way to do it was a piece at a time. First to go was the Motorola tube amplifier. So we purchase a Mirage 100 "repeater" amplifier. Repeater is in quotes because what Mirage did was take their normal 100 watt amp,

remove the receive preamp and add a bigger heatsink. It sounds like we were not overly pleased. Well as with our other attempts it took a couple of years to figure out that we should not have spent the money. First, in order to use the amp we needed a power supply. Only the controller was 12V and that was powered by a small open frame power supply. We purchased a 50 amp Astron rack mount power supply to run the amp and the controller.

Ed was getting tired of all the tweaking (and Jim all the re-tweaking) and the board started discussing updating the equipment. It was decided to buy some brand spanking new repeater hardware and $2600 was spent on an ICOM repeater. That should solve the desense problem and maybe even improve performance. Well…not quite. We were all fairly new at this repeater stuff so we trusted equipment to be designed and built as we needed. Looking back on things and knowing what we know now, the ICOM purchase was not a good one. In some instances it actually performed worse than the 25 year old Motorola equipment. It turns out ICOM repeaters as sold in the ham markets are not considered very good. But that could be another story. As a footnote to the ICOM purchase, the transmitter was rated at 25 watts, but the Mirage amp wanted an input of not more than 10 watts. Ed didn't know, realize, discover, whatever that the ICOM had an adjustable power output. It could have been turned down to 10 watts and the amp used, but he never did that and the amp sat in the rack collecting dust. The 50 amp power supply was now used to power the controller only (with about a 1 amp max drain).

OK, we have a new repeater receiver/transmitter but coverage is still not that great. Let's try a new antenna. Up to this point we were using the Hustler that came with the original repeater purchase. $270 was spent on a Diamond dual band antenna (dual band being 2 meters and 70 cm). It was thought having 70 cm available would make a remote receiver possible. Again it turns out we were not totally correct. I have some experience with a couple of other repeater systems which used dual band ham antennas and in all cases their performance was not as good as with a single band commercial quality antenna. Oh well, we'll get this right yet.

In 1999 Ed Wille passed away. The repeater was still located in his garage and the antenna on his tower. While his daughter would be living at the house it was a good idea to go ahead and find a new home for the machine (and hopefully one with better coverage). A lot of talking and dreaming took place but no progress was made. Matt Planning KB9PRC was a relatively new ham (having been in the last Technician class in 1996) and a new officer in the club (Vice President). He also recently started a new job at Eaton Corp R&D on the north side of Milwaukee. I worked at Eaton along with a number of other hams. One day Matt asked me what I thought the chances were of moving the repeater to the Eaton building. I said it couldn't hurt to ask. We recently got a new manager who was very receptive to amateur radio. In fact she was based in the Eaton R&D facility in Southfield Michigan which had an amateur radio club with a dedicated office and their own equipment. With her blessing we talked to the building manager, a non-ham named Bob Chappie, and asked him if we could have some roof space. It turns out one of his employees was a ham. Nick Broncotti KA9LUW, (later K9TNN) was the building electrician. He had been dropping hints to his boss (Mr. Chappie) about wanting some roof space too. After some discussion, Mr. Chappie asked what all this would cost him. We said nothing. He said we were free to do whatever we wanted. He even said he would throw in a couple of hours of Nick's time to work on the install. We all shook hands and proceeded to make plans and arraignments to get the repeater installed on top of the Eaton Corp. building at 4201 N. 27 St. The building is a 7 story office building with a 2 story elevator penthouse. The repeater would be located in the penthouse and we would try using 2

antennas, with the transmit antenna on the main roof (7 stories up) and the receive antenna on top of the elevator penthouse (slightly more than 9 stories up). Since our boss was pro ham radio and also wanted to foster a positive work environment, she volunteered to cover our time working on the machine as well as pay for the necessary feedlines (about $1500 in hardline). In fact, plans were underway to form an Eaton ham club and we did get a license (W9ETN), but business conditions forced the elimination of a number of us from the company and that idea died away (that's another story not related to MRAC).

Jim Tromblay, WB9LNU, and John Merkl, WB9PSE, removed the repeater and antennas from Ed Wille's garage and tower and Jim loaded up a trailer and delivered the equipment to us at Eaton. We temporarily set up the machine in a 4th floor laboratory (including the antenna) and proceeded to learn the equipment especially the system controller. While the antenna was indoors, it was slightly higher than it was at Ed's house and the coverage was about the same (poor). So far Matt and I were doing the playing. We got Nick involved (being the building electrician he had easy access to the entire building) to scout out antenna locations and mounting possibilities. Nick enlisted the Eaton model shop to fabricate brackets for antenna mounting and we then made plans for a November antenna and repeater install.

Finally on Saturday November 18, 2000 we moved the repeater hardware up to the elevator penthouse and installed the Hustler antenna (the original repeater antenna) as the transmit antenna on the main roof and the Diamond antenna on the elevator penthouse roof for a receive antenna. Getting all this equipment up there was not as easy as you may think. The building has two elevator penthouses, one for the freight elevator (which does go to this level) and one for the passenger elevators (which go to the 7th floor, not the roof). The passenger elevator penthouse where the repeater hardware is going is a 2 story structure upon the roof. That means the rack and all RF equipment must be carried up a flight of concrete stairs and then up another flight of fairly steep metal grate stairs to get to it's resting location. That meant all equipment had to be disconnected for each other and removed from the rack to be carried up. To get the receive antenna mounted on the roof of that penthouse meant climbing up a steel ladder mounted flush against one wall and crawling through a roof hatch. Do that with tools and a 17 foot antenna! That work was accomplished by Matt Planning KB9PRC and my self along with the assistance of 3 non-club members, Nick KA9LUW, Jim Hansen, W9AQN, and Mark Tellier who was not yet licensed (working on the repeater gave him the push he needed after wanting to become one of us - AB9CD - since he was a teenager). We were all Eaton employees and could get in the building on a Saturday. That was why no other club members were involved. Actually a few more Eaton hams helped haul stuff up to the penthouse during the week previous so we could save time on Saturday. Eaton also provided the telephone line for repeater control. Actually the phone up in the elevator penthouse happened to be an old fashioned analog phone which was a direct line. It was not a digital phone going through the building PBX. So with the addition of an extra jack and some wire we had a control phone (the elevator penthouse phone saw use about once or twice a year so we could easily share it without conflict.

Anyway we now had a reasonable repeater installation. We actually had coverage beyond the city of Milwaukee and you didn't need a beam to get in. Dick McNew WB9PTC brought his on-air code practice to the repeater from simplex. That's how much better the system coverage was than before. We were on the Eaton building from Fall 2000 until Spring 2003. During that time we did try various experiments with antenna and equipment configurations (1 antenna, 2 antennas, different numbers of cavities, bandpass filter and more)

to improve the system performance. What we finally discovered was a major flaw in the ICOM repeater. Due to something inherent in the design of the unit, if the input signal was not very strong, the repeater transmitter would overload the repeater receiver. This would happen within the repeater box itself, so no amount of external filtering could fix it. This did limit our coverage somewhat (but we were still ahead of what we had at Ed's house). We even tried to do some mods to the repeater box to see if we could at least minimize the problem, but after a number of tries, it appeared it would require too much work (almost a complete redesign of the ICOM packaging). This got us to thinking about maybe some new hardware - yet again.

During some of our experiments we began to question the effectiveness of the Diamond antenna. It was showing some signs of wear and may have taken a couple of lightening hits both at Ed's house and at Eaton. We mentioned our concerns and soon Jerry Wahlen, WA9CGE, produced a copper pipe J-Pole antenna which we put into service as a receive antenna (with Matt Planning single handedly removing the Diamond and mounting the J-Pole). Now before you laugh at a repeater using a J-Pole, let me say that while it may not have been the best repeater antenna, it was performing at least as good as the Diamond and maybe even a bit better.

On a Sunday in late 2001 during one of our experiments to improve the repeater operation (trying running the ICOM at low power and using the Mirage amp to bring the power output up), it was discovered that when the transmitter would key up it would generate a spur (actually the Mirage amplifier) that would start low in the band and move up the band. As it moved up the band it happened to frequently hit the frequency of 146.31 MHz. That is the input frequency for a very popular wide coverage repeater in town. This was when we made contact with Dave Karr, KA9FUR. Dave was the frequency coordinator for the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) as well as all around repeater technical guy. Dave drove around town with test equipment looking for the offending signal screwing up the 91 repeater and he found it at the Eaton building. Having found the problem, Dave returned home (to Waukesha) and ended up calling Mark Tellier. All this happened on a Sunday and by now it was around 6 pm. Mark said he would be happy to go to the repeater to get things fixed but Dave lives quite a distance away. Dave said we needed this thing fixed now so he would drive back in (having already been there an hour or so ago). Mark lives in Brown Deer and was only about 15 minutes away from the repeater but for Dave it was around 45 minutes. Anyway, Dave brought his test equipment and knowledge and he and Mark were at the repeater on Eaton's roof until 11 pm. Now the spur was gone (and the Mirage amp turned off) and we even got some free tweaking from Dave (who could just have told us to fix things or turn it all off). It turns out after talking to Jim Tromblay, he had some problems with the amp before. It seems the fancy repeater amplifier did not like the load presented to it by the necessary for repeater operation cavities that caused the amplifier to go into oscillation. Oh well, we'll do without the amp.

While we did get the immediate problems fixed, this occasion was really the key to making contact with Dave Karr (who was not a club member and did not have to do anything for us but I did know him professionally from some past lives of both of us) which would set the stage for all future upgrades and getting us a well functioning good coverage repeater. How did that happen? Well we somehow convinced Dave we really didn't know anything about all this repeater stuff (that was not too hard) and we were all really good guys in need of help (the in need of help part wasn't too hard either) so for some reason he decided to help us out. First, we asked him his opinion of our hardware. He told us what we already knew about the ICOM and recommended we replace it. But first, he recommended a new commercial

antenna. When asked about the details, he said he often bought stuff from a particular supplier and he would order us one if we wanted. The board decided yes and we told him to go ahead and get us one. What he purchased was a Decibel Products 6 db gain antenna which was about 22 feet tall, weighed 32 pounds and cost about $550. On April 21, 2002 in about 40 degree weather and freezing rain and wind we of course put up the new antenna. It's not the easiest thing to lift and keep vertical a 22 foot long pole that weighs 32 pounds especially in cold rain and wind but we somehow managed to do it. We now had a good antenna but we were not done yet.

The ICOM repeater was still a sore point with us and Dave. When asked his opinion of what to buy he recommended his current favorite, GE Master II repeaters. He said he would keep an eye out for one during an upcoming Dayton Hamvention trip. Well in May of 2002 at the Dayton hamfest, Dave was successful in finding a GE repeater he was happy with and purchased it for the club. That cost was about $500. Not bad for a real commercial repeater (not a converted mobile radio). It was now May and Dave had not billed the club for the antenna he purchased previously that we installed in April and he just spent another $500 for the club. Well he did eventually bill the club for the antenna and repeater but we essentially received a 6 plus month loan for no interest from him. Thanks Dave.

Toward the end of June the new repeater was installed but that was not all that happened. At the time of the new hardware install we also changed frequency. This was not significant just for changing our repeater frequency but for some additional good relationships we would build. It seems that the MATC repeater which was on 145.39 MHz was going to move to the new digital TV tower built for Channel 10/36. It would be higher than it's present location on the channel 18/10/36 tower (a few hundred feet to the north of the new tower). That would give the repeater a larger coverage footprint than it had and would place it in potential interference with a repeater in Illinois. At a MRAC board meeting early in 2002 Dave Karr asked if we would be willing to swap frequencies with MATC since 147.045 had a larger clearance zone into Illinois than 145.39. Just off the top of my head (I was President at the time) I said sure that would be no problem and what could we get in return. That surprised Dave and we just passed it off as a joke and proceeded to go along with the frequency change. With the installation and tune up of the new repeater hardware the frequency change would take place (and we would have to change the club banner and numerous printed material with the club logo on it – never design a logo with too much detail…).

Well the new repeater was installed and the ICOM repeater, Mirage amp, and Astron power supply were removed from the cabinet. I donated a small open frame power supply to again power the controller. With the new antenna and new repeater which did not suffer from internal overload we suddenly increased our coverage area. Something else happened with the new hardware and the adjustments by Dave Karr, we no longer had to play with the system, either to fix some problem or to improve operation. Wow! By the way the ICOM was listed on eBay by Mark Tellier and the club was able to recoup $750 of our investment in it. The other items (antennas, power supply, amplifier) all were auctioned off at the annual MRAC auction.

By this time only Matt Planning from the installation and maintenance crew was still employed by Eaton. They were also floating ideas about selling the building. We then decided we should start looking for a new home on our own schedule, before the building was sold and we would have to move things out with very short notice (during this time the 30th Street facility belonging to one of Eaton's divisions was sold, actually the entire division was sold).

As before we were not really getting anywhere looking for a new home when Dave Karr called again. Since we seemed to be good guys and we did help him out with the frequency issue with no problems (as opposed to some other groups who have been approached over the years about changing frequencies), would we be interested in a new location which would be much better than our current location. Not wanting to sound totally stupid we said sure. We did not know details yet but were told to stand by. By the end of 2002 some details were starting to come out. There would be a group repeater/remote receiver site. It would involve 2 antennas for VHF and 2 for UHF. On VHF would be our repeater and a MARS repeater and some remote receivers for other repeaters. On UHF would be additional area repeaters and remote receivers. As part of the deal we would provide our antenna as one of the VHF antennas. In return we would have a receive antenna at the 730 foot mark and a transmit antenna at 630 feet. The antennas are fed with 2-1/4 inch hardline. All equipment is housed in a concrete block room with it's only entrance through a door from the outside. The location is the Channel 10/36/18 transmitter building. The tower is the Channel 18/10/36 analog TV tower. The receive antenna is slightly above the half way point of the tower. The top of the tower has the Channel 18 antenna and just below is a mounting arm with the channel 10 and 36 antennas. For the location we have to thank David Felland, WB0AFB, Director of Engineering for WMVS/WMVT TV, Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin Association of Repeaters Frequency Coordinator, Dave Schank, KA9WXN, engineer WMVS/WMVT TV. All antenna work was performed by Skywave Tower Service. For those who do not know, the location is Humboldt Ave just north of Capitol Drive bordering the Milwaukee River (really, the river is about 100 feet from the repeater room door).

As of this writing we are approaching the 1 year mark of operation from this new site. Other than telephone installation and some controller problems (we would like to replace that soon) there have been no "service" calls necessary at the site. If we do need access, Dave Karr or Dave Schank need to be there, so extra thanks to them (and they also make sure things work well so they don't have to go there). Our coverage now extends from the southern part of Sheboygan County to the Illinois state line and west throughout Washington and Waukesha counties and southwest to just outside Delavan. All locations are for mobile radio coverage. Base stations can do better. The repeater has also seen use as a secondary frequency for some city of Milwaukee public service events including two Miller Lite Rides for the Arts events. I can even hear it on an HT from my house in Muskego. Quite a change from when it was at Ed Wille's house when I had to use an outside antenna just to hear it and had to run at least 25 watts just to get in. We made a lot of mis-steps (mistakes?) and probably spent more money than we had to, and we certainly undertook the project about 20 years too late, but we got there. Thanks to all the people who helped us get there, many of them not club members who could have told us to get lost. Be sure to thank them when you can and be sure to use the repeater, it took a lot of work to make it work.

The Past Presidents Of MRAC

1917 Committee
1918 L.S. Hillegas Baird 9HO
1919 L.S. Hillegas Baird 9HO
1920 Clarence Crapo 9VD
1921 Daniel Gellerup 9AOE
1922 Herbert Wareing 9NY
1923 E. T. Howell 9CVI
1924 E. T. Howell 9CVI
1925 Charles Polacheck
1926 Fred Catel W9DTK
1927 F. D. Schunck W9AFZ
1928 Donald Seibel W9ESF
1929 George Ward W9DCE
1930 Louis Wollaeger W9ANA
1931 Clarence Crapo W9VD
1932 Frank Moore W9BVB
1933 Dr. Charles A. Rosenbaum W9GHN
1934 Emil Felber W9RH
1935 Erwin Kries W9HRM
1936 George Ruger W9VWG
1937 Charles Meyer W9GVL
1938 William Brossman W9EQP
1939 N. J. Richard W9OUB
1940 Clarence Crapo W9VD
1941 Joseph Kircher W9NRX
1942 Norman Barnes W9CDY
1943 Norman Barnes W9CDY
1944 Norman Barnes W9CDY
1945 John Scarvaci W9GIL
1946 Ralph Koenig W9RUF
1947 Fred Catel W9DTK
1948 George Bowen W9DWI
1949 Ralph Koenig W9RUF
1950 Fred Zolin W9ONY
1951 Fred Zolin W9ONY
1952 Thomas Gettelman W9IZO
1953 Ken Eggert W9MOT
1954 Elden Belanger W9MDG
1955 Emil Felber W9RH
1956 Raymond Peschek W9LJU
1957 Richard Oberholtzer W9ZPV
1958 Douglas Pavek W9FDX
1959 Ken Eggert W9MOT
1960 Arlan Bowen W9QYW
1961 Russell Burss W9RKP
1962 J. Travis Baird W9VQD
1963 Royal Miller W9CJO
1964 Carl Rohde W9ROM
1965 Carl Rohde W9ROM
1966 Bernard Tower K9ZPP
1967 J. Travis Baird W9VQD
1968 J. Travis Baird W9VQD
1969 Richard Oberholtzer W9ZPV
1970 Richard Oberholtzer W9ZPV
1971 Richard Oberholtzer W9ZPV
1972 Jack McLeland W9ATK
1973 Jack McLeland W9ATK
1974 Lee Mushel K9WRU
1975 Elden Belanger W9MDG
1976 Elden Belanger W9MDG
1977 Elden Belanger W9MDG
1978 Robert Glamm W9UGN
1979 Robert Glamm W9UGN
1980 C. Reid Whipple K9IWC
1981 C. Reid Whipple K9IWC
1982 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1983 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1984 Chris Welton WD9GZL
1985 Ted Stiller WA9RDI
1986 Ted Stiller WA9RDI
1987 Harry Cieszki KD9AJ
1988 Harry Cieszki KD9AJ
1989 Ed Wille W9PWG

Start of 2 year terms...

1990 Ed Wille W9PWG
1992 Ed Wille W9PWG
1994 Ed Wille W9PWG
1996 Ed Wille W9PWG
1998 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
2000 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
2002 Patrick Moretti W9UQ
2003 Kevin Reemes KC9BZU
2004 Patrick Moretti W9UQ

The Past Officers Of MRAC

The following list has been compiled from a number of sources and unfortunately is not 100% complete. Every effort has been made to ensure correctness.

1922-1923
Pres – Herb Wareing W9NY
VP – E.T. Howell W9CVI
Secretary – H. G. Fawcett
Treasurer – E. W. Ruppenthal
Sgt At Arms – J. G. Montague

1923-1924
Pres – E.T. Howell W9CVI
VP – W. F. Szukalski Jr.
Secretary – C. S. Polacheck
Treasurer – E. W. Ruppenthal
Ass Treasurer – Fred Catel W9DTK
Business Mgr – L. S. Baird

1924-1925
Pres – E.T. Howell W9CVI
VP – C. S. Polacheck
Secretary – Fred Catel W9DTK
Treasurer – E. W. Ruppenthal

1925-1926
Pres – C. S. Polacheck
VP – Fred Catel W9DTK
Secretary/Treasurer – John Meyer
Treasurer – E. W. Ruppenthal
Business Mgr – E.T. Howell W9CVI
Papers (?) – R. Knoff

1926-1927
Pres – Fred Catel W9DTK
VP – R. Knoff
Secretary/Treasurer – F. D. Schunck W9AFZ
Business Mgr – Anstutz

1927-1928
Pres – F. D. Schunck W9AFZ
VP – R. Knoff
Secretary/Treasurer – Don Seibel W9ESF
Business Mgr – Fred Catel W9DTK

1928-1929
Pres – Donald Seibel W9ESF
Secretary/Treasurer – F.J. Jutrash W9ALL
Secretary/Treasurer (11/15/28) – Harold R. Reiss W9ERS
Publicity – Fred Catel W9DTK

1929-1930
Pres – George Ward W9DCE
VP - Louis Wollaeger W9ANA
Secretary/Treasurer – Otis Stomer
Business Mgr – Donald Seibel W9ESF

1930-1931
Pres – Louis Wollaeger W9ANA
VP – O. E. Zander W9DIJ
Secretary/Treasurer – G. E. Woodward
Secretary/Treasurer (5/21/31) – Herb F. Wareing W9NY
Business Mgr – Clarence Crapo W9VD

1931-1932
Pres – Clarence Crapo W9VD
VP – Charles O. Meyer W9GVL
Secretary/Treasurer – H. G. Barnes
Publicity – Louis Wollaeger W9ANA

1932-1933
Pres – Frank Moore W9BVB
VP – Dr. Charles A. Rosenbaum W9GHN
Secretary/Treasurer – Louis Wollaeger W9ANA
Publicity – S. Michaels

1933-1934
Pres – Dr. Charles A. Rosenbaum W9GHN
VP – Erwin Kreis W9HRM
Secretary – Herb J. Parish W9CCD
Treasurer – O. E. Zander W9DIJ
Business Mgr – Donald Seibel W9ESF

1934-1935
Pres – Emil Felber W9RH
VP – C. Sennef
Secretary – Hal Kurth W9FSS
Secretary (9/6/34) – George J. Wood W9DII
Treasurer – Louis Wollaeger W9ANA

1935-1936
Pres – Erwin Kries W9HRM
VP – O. E. Zander W9DIJ
Secretary – Herb Baker W9GSP
Treasurer – H. Peschek W9LJU

1936-1937
Pres – George Ruger W9VWG
VP – H. Peschek W9LJU
Secretary – Charles Meyer W9GVL
Treasurer – Al Krones W9UIT
Publicity – Fred Seifert W9EFX

1937-1938
Pres – Charles Meyer W9GVL
VP – William Brossman W9EQP
Secretary/Treasurer – Fred Seifert W9EFX
Business Mgr – Erwin Kries W9HRM

1938-1939
Pres – William Brossman W9EQP
VP – N. J. Richard W9OUB
Secretary/Treasurer – George Ruger W9VWG
Business Mgr – Erwin Kries W9HRM

1939-1940
Pres – N. J. Richard W9OUB
VP – Louis Wollaeger W9ANA
Secretary/Treasurer – George Bowen W9DWI
Business Mgr – Erwin Kries W9HRM
Publicity – Emil Felber W9RH

1940-1941
Pres – Clarence Crapo W9VD
VP – J. J. Kircher W9NRX
Secretary/Treasurer – Herb Reinke W9ESO
Business Mgr – Erwin Kries W9HRM

1941-1942
Pres – Joseph Kircher W9NRX
VP – Jack Doyle W9GPI
Secretary – Reid Burrows W9JCW
Treasurer – Emil Felber W9RH
Business Mgr – Erwin Kries W9HRM

1942-1943
Pres – Norman Barnes W9CDY
VP - Fred Zolin W9ONY
Secretary – John Scarvaci W9GIL
Treasurer – Ray Behmke W9DJC
Treasurer (11/3/42) – Emil Felber W9RH
Business Mgr – Erwin Kries W9HRM

1943-1944
Pres – Norman Barnes W9CDY
VP – John Scarvaci W9GIL
Secretary – Thomas Gettelman W9IZO
Treasurer – Emil Felber W9RH

1944-1945
Pres – Norman Barnes W9CDY
VP – Thomas Gettelman W9IZO
Secretary – Erwin Kries W9HRM
Treasurer – Emil Felber W9RH

1945-1946
Pres – John Scarvaci W9GIL
VP – Ralph Koenig W9RUF
Secretary – Erwin Kries W9HRM
Treasurer – Emil Felber W9RH
Directors:
Norman Barnes W9CDY
Thomas Gettelman W9IZO
Jack Doyle W9GPI
Charles Meyer W9GVL
Irving Jackson W9CID

1946-1947

Pres – Ralph Koenig W9RUF
VP – Dr. J. F. Wyman W9SZH
Secretary – Cyril V. Shallow W9SQK
Treasurer – Louis Wollaeger W9ANA
Directors:
Charles Meyer W9GVL
Al Krones W9UIT
Emil Felber W9RH
George J. Pfister W9IZQ

1947-1948

Pres – Fred Catel W9DTK
VP – George Bowen W9DWI
Secretary – Lester Reinmund W9PTE
Treasurer – Emil Felber W9RH
Directors:
Jack Doyle W9GPI
Thomas Gettelman W9IZO
Charles Meyer W9GVL
George J. Pfister W9IZQ
ARRL Central Division Director – Clyde C. Richelieu W9ARE
ARRL National Convention Chairman - Jack Doyle W9GPI

1948-1949

Pres – George Bowen W9DWI
VP - Ralph Koenig W9RUF
Secretary – Curtis Schultz W9LZU
Secretary (11/30/48) – Joseph Collins W9PYM
Treasurer – Leonard Benson W9BNN
Directors:
J. Travis Baird W9VQD
Joseph Collins W9PYM
Hugh Wilson W9NAV
John Scarvaci W9GIL (alternate)
ARRL Central Division Director – Jack Doyle W9GPI

1949-1950

Pres – Ralph Koenig W9RUF
VP - Fred Zolin W9ONY
Secretary – Art Vahovius W9VSO
Treasurer – Leonard Benson W9BNN
Treasurer - George Bowen W9DWI
Directors:
George Bowen W9DWI
Joseph Collins W9PYM
Clarence O. Wahner W9YYY (alternate)
ARRL Central Division Director – Jack Doyle W9GPI
ARRL Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator - Clarence O. Wahner W9YYY
ARRL Milwaukee County Emergency Coordinator - Ralph Koenig W9RUF
Legal Counsel Paul A Leeb W9TKY

1950-1951

Pres – Fred Zolin W9ONY
VP – Louis Wollaeger W9ANA
Secretary – Eugene Wille W9EKU
Secretary (9/28/50) – Les G. Thelaner W9HDW
Treasurer – Emil Felber W9RH
Directors:
Thomas Gettelman W9IZO
George J. Pfister W9IZQ
John Scarvaci W9GIL
Gildea Hutchinson W9FTY

1951-1952

Pres – Fred Zolin W9ONY
1st VP - J. Travis Baird W9VQD
2nd VP – Ken Eggert W9MOT
Secretary – Art Brown W9EZP
Treasurer – Lynn Lewis W9UH
Treasurer (2/21/52) – Emil Felber W9RH
Directors:
H. Charles Kaetel W9SNK
Jack Doyle W9GPI
Emil Felber W9RH
Thomas Gettelman W9IZO
Douglas Pavek W9FDX
Louis Wollaeger W9ANA

1962-1963
Pres – J. Travis Baird W9VQD
1st VP – Royal Miller W9CJO
2nd VP – Carl Rohde W9ROM
Secretary – John Korns K9WGN
Secretary – Bernard Moores K9KLM
Treasurer – Tony Kuntz K9CJP
Chairman – Russell E. Burss W9RKP

1963-1964
Pres – Royal Miller W9CJO
1st VP – Carl Rohde W9ROM
2nd VP – Walter Prichard W9CUS
Secretary – Bernard Moores K9KLM
Treasurer – Tony Kuntz K9CJP
Chairman – J. Travis Baird W9VQD

1964-1965
Pres – Carl Rohde W9ROM
1st VP – Jack Doyle W9GPI
2nd VP – Bernard Moores K9KLM
Secretary – George Greeson K9KLK
Treasurer – Dick Scarvaci K9CAN
Chairman – Royal Miller W9CJO

1965-1966
Pres – Carl Rohde W9ROM
1st VP – Jack Doyle W9GPI
2nd VP – Robert W. Price WA9JLU
Secretary – Lowell Warshawsky W9NGV
Treasurer – Jack W. McLeland W9ATK
Chairman – Carl Rohde W9ROM
Directors:
Charles C. Dawson W9CUW
William J. Fake W9BLQ
Harold A. Engelke K9CMX
Russell C. Greenwood W9LVR
Frank J. Seboth W9NLY
Fred H. Zolin W9ONY
Radio Officer – Herbert Zwarra W9MQA
Legal Counsel Paul A Leeb W9TKY

1966-1967
Pres – Bernard E. Tower K9ZPP
1st VP – Donald A. Evenson K9JYX
2nd VP – Robert W. Price WA9JLU
Secretary – George Greeson K9KLK
Treasurer – Charles C. Dawson W9CUW
Chairman – Carl Rohde W9ROM
Directors:
Jack Doyle W9GPI
Harold A. Engelke K9CMX
Russell C. Greenwood W9LVR
Jack W. McLeland W9ATK
James H. Ott W9LCD
Frank J. Seboth W9NLY
Legal Counsel Paul A Leeb W9TKY

1967-1968
Pres – J. Travis Baird W9VQD
1st VP – Frank J. Seboth W9NLY
2nd VP – Lowell Warshawsky W9NGV
Secretary – Walter J. Glish W9YYW
Treasurer – Charles C. Dawson W9CUW
Chairman – Bernard E. Tower K9ZPP
Directors:
Jack Doyle W9GPI
Donald A. Evenson K9JYX
Jack W. McLeland W9ATK
James H. Ott W9LCD
Carl Rohde W9ROM
Raymond W. Weeks WA9JOV
Legal Counsel Paul A Leeb W9TKY

1969-1970
Pres – Richard H. Oberholtzer W9ZPV
VP – Raymond W. Weeks WA9JOV
Secretary – Walter J. Glish W9YYW
Treasurer – Charles C. Dawson W9CUW
Chairman – J. Travis Baird W9VQD
Directors:
Harold A. Engelke K9CMX
Jack W. McLeland W9ATK
James H. Ott W9LCD
Carl Rohde W9ROM
Chester Y. Sakura W9CTI
Lloyd W. Wantland WA9JKD
Legal Counsel Paul A Leeb W9TKY

1975-1976

Pres – Eldon J. Belanger W9MDG
1st VP – Gordon H. Weiler W9ZQK
2nd VP – Ralph Parker WA9MLY
Secretary – Ray O. Truemner W9ITD
Treasurer – J. Travis Baird W9VQD
Chairman –
Directors:
Russell E. Burss W9RKP
Florence Belanger W9WYJ
Walter J. Glish W9YYW
Robert A. Glamm W9UGN
Jack C. Krause W9UJM
Sus Musashi WB9BGJ

1993

Pres – Ed Willie W9PWG
1st VP – J. Travis Baird W9VQD
2nd VP – Roger Zaun W9UVV
Secretary – Fred Linn W9NZF
Treasurer – Orv Stewart KA9ONQ
Chairman – Ted Stiller WA9RDI
Directors:
Paul Boese KB9FBM
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Tom Fuszard N9MGZ
Bill Jones KF9FA
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
Jack Krause W9JK
Joe Rayome KE9LL

1999-2000

Pres – Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1st VP – Matt Planning KB9PRC
2nd VP – Brian White KB9LCQ
Secretary – Jim Tromblay WB9LNU
Treasurer – Ken Eggert W9MOT
Directors
Barbara Brewer KB9TIV
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Al Drobac AA9XH
Dick McNew WB9PTC
Jerry Melotik KC9EV
Tom Fuszard KF9PU
Kate Kedney KA9MWT (replacing KC9EV SK)

2000-2001

Pres – Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1st VP – Matt Planning KB9PRC
2nd VP – Brian White KB9LCQ
Secretary – Jim Tromblay WB9LNU
Treasurer – Lester Hundt KB9QZQ
Directors:
Barbara Brewer KB9TIV
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Ken Eggert W9MOT
Tom Fuszard KF9PU
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
John Merkl WB9PSE

2001-2002

Pres – Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1st VP – Matt Planning KB9PRC
2nd VP – Brian White KB9LCQ
Secretary – Jim Tromblay WB9LNU
Treasurer – Lester Hundt KB9QZQ
Directors:
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Ken Eggert W9MOT
Tom Fuszard KF9PU
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
John Merkl WB9PSE
Tom Schulte KB9RLB